

Making sense of the crisis in Indian newsrooms 2020

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Report, research on the business of journalism, political economy of communication technologies

Work In Progress

Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Layoff and cutback tracker: bit.ly/newsatcovid19

Survey form: bit.ly/newsatcovid19survey

Twitter: [@cyrilsam](https://twitter.com/cyrilsam)

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WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Began on 14 April,

Online survey on 17 April,

55 entries

24 Survey responses,

15 newsroom emails

10 public announcements

WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Closures at: One

Layoffs at: 13

Furloughs at: Two

Salary cuts at: 22

Shutting down of bureaus at: Four

Suspension of print editions at: 7

WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

This is the fourth wave of layoffs in across newsrooms in the last decade. It is different this time because it:

1. Impact all forms of media and media organisations
2. Is structural: Advertising crunch
3. Will be a longer period of flux
4. Is just the trailer of what is to follow in the coming weeks
5. Is the beginning of a structural shift in the business. This time, jobs are not returning

WIP: Tracking layoffs and cutbacks

Gaps in my work:

1. Not exhaustive,
2. Regional language news media,
3. Lack of official communication,
4. Number of journalists affected,

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Emerging trends:

1. Changing terms of contracts, more retainers and stringers
2. Push for direct reader revenue: Paywalls
3. Digitisation, accelerated death of print
4. Streamlining: More demanding KPIs for journalists
5. Worsening mental health of journalists
6. Closure of upcountry editions
7. Worsening news deserts

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